

July 25, 2003

LEGAL NOTICE

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has reviewed a proposed partial reclamation bond release requested by Holcim Inc. (Holcim) for partial reclamation of its sandstone and shale quarries between Trident and Logan, MT.

Holcim and its predecessors have quarried limestone, sandstone and shale in the area since 1908 to produce cement at its plant in Trident, MT. The quarries are on private land between the Missouri River and the Gallatin River in section 3, 4, 9, 10 and 13 in Township 2 North and Range 2 East in Gallatin County between Trident and Logan, MT.

Current disturbance at the quarries is 245 acres within a 1004-acre permit area. DEQ currently holds a reclamation bond of \$3,095,467 for reclamation of 288 of the 595 acres of permitted quarry disturbances.

Holcim has partially reclaimed 14.2 acres in the sandstone and shale quarry. Holcim has partially reclaimed another 14.8 acres in its old sandstone quarry. DEQ proposes to release some of the bond to reflect completion of regrading, soiling and seeding of the reclaimed acres. DEQ would continue to hold money for the reclaimed acres until revegetation has been successfully established which includes the potential need for reseeding, erosion and weed control activities. DEQ has proposed a \$62,621 reduction of the reclamation bond.

Reclamation bond release procedures are set forth in Section 82-4-338, MCA, of the Montana Metal Mine Reclamation Act. DEQ has completed a draft proposed bond release determination. This would reduce the total reclamation bond from \$3,095,467 to \$3,032,846.

DEQ is publishing the draft proposed bond release determination in local newspapers and issuing a press release seeking company and public comments. The company and/or the public will have 30 days to comment and/or request a hearing. The company or any person with an interest that may be adversely affected by the draft bond release determination may request a contested case hearing before the Board of Environmental Review within the 30-day comment period.

A copy of the bond calculations that form the basis for the draft proposed bond release determination can be obtained by contacting the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Environmental Management Bureau, P. O. Box 200901, 1520 E. Sixth Ave., Helena, MT 59620-0901, or by calling Patrick Plantenberg at (406) 444-4960 or e-mail at pplantenberg@state.mt.us. A final bond release determination will be issued within 30 days of the close of the public comment period or after the hearing if requested.